

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01487 031006Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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----- 122744

R 030635Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 411

S E C R E T JIDDA 1487

STADIS//////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR AKINS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA
SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT OF U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO
SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) STATE 32437
(B) JIDDA 1488

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN THAT PRINCE SULTAN MIGHT GET TIRED OF SEEING ME COMING WITH HAT IN HAND. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT PLAIN SPEAKING, WHICH WILL INSURE THAT SULTAN KNOWS WHAT OTHER REQUESTS THE FUTURE HOLDS, WILL ELIMINATE ANY PROBLEM. AD WE HOPE TO KEEP AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL APPROACHES TO TWO:

- (1) PRESENTATION OF UNZ, AND
- (2) PRESENTATION OF A USMTM SALARIES AND PCS TRAVEL FUNDS REQUEST SOMETIME IN EARLY 1976, TO INSURE THAT FUNDS ARE ON HAND BY JULY 1, 1976.

THIS LATTER APPROACH WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE A REQUEST TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 8B OF THE 1953 USMTM AGREEMENT, LEST WE LATER BE HELD IN VIOLATION. WHEN I PRESENT THE UNZ I WILL INSURE THAT SULTAN KNOWS THAT THE SECOND PACKAGE IS COMING LATER, AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE REASONS WHY.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01487 031006Z

2. WE DO NOT THINK REQUESTS FOR TAF TEAMS WILL CAUSE US

ANY DIFFICULTY, THOUGH WE DO HOPE THAT EACH TAFT LOA CAN INCLUDE ALL SUPPORT FUNDS FOR EACH TEAM, THUS ELIMINATING THE NECESSITY OF A SEPARATE TAFT SUPPORT PACKAGE. SAUDIS REQUEST TAF REAMS THROUGH USMTM AND UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY TO PAY. PAYMENT HAS NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL--ONLY SPEED OF RESPONSE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN 10 MONTHS WAITING TO PRESENT UNZ. SHELVING THIS TO DEVELOP SOMETHING NEW MIGHT WELL RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL DELAY OF MANY MONTHS, WHILE USMTM COULD SORELTY USE THE OPERATIONAL FREEDOM UNZ FUNDS WOULD BESTOW. SIMILARLY, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD ON MORE FORMAL ASSURANCES OF PRIVILDGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR USMTM AND ATTACHED PERSONNEL--THE ONLY MILITARY GROUP NOT NOW GUARANTEED BROAD IMMUNITIES.

4. I WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH GENERAL AHMANN (THOUGH I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED IT AT SOME LENGTH WITH THE PRESENT USMTM SENIOR OFFICERS), AND AN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER WILL ATTEND THE MID-MARCH DHARAN TAFT CONFERENCE WITH AN OPEN MIND, BUT WE WOULD PREFER TO PRESENT UNZ AND THE PORPOSED MOU NOW, AND DEVELOP OUR TAFT ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF DAILY FUNDING PROBLEMS FOR USMTM. JIDDA 1488, WHICH FOLLOWS, TRIES TO SAY THIS.

AKINS

SECRET

NNN

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